

REMARKS

By this Amendment, non-elected claims 5-8 and 15-18 are cancelled without prejudice, claims 1 and 9-12 are amended, and new claim 19 is added. Claims 1-4, 9-14, and 19 are pending for examination.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 9-14 were rejected as anticipated by Janopaul, Jr. '834. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The structure designated with reference numeral 34 in Janopaul, Jr. '834, identified as a "contiguous top" of the blocks 12, 13, 14, by the Examiner, is in fact a separate "cap member" See Janopaul, Jr. '834, col. 4, ll. 29-32. The top surface of the blocks disclosed in Janopaul, Jr. '834 is identified with reference numeral 28. This top surface includes a pair of large openings 19, 21, and hence is not "substantially contiguous" as in the claimed invention. Since Janopaul, Jr. '834 does not disclose all elements of the claimed invention, it is not anticipating.

Nevertheless, to advance prosecution of the present application, a limitation has been included in the independent claims 1 and 19 of the application to recite that each of the sidewalls defines a notch or inset portion adjacent the rear surface of the block. Neither of the applied references Janopaul Jr. '834 or Okerlund '827 discloses or suggests such a notch or inset portion in a sidewall of the block. Consequently, the claimed invention cannot be anticipated or rendered obvious thereby. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

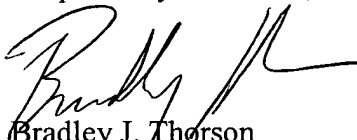
Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected as obvious over Janopaul Jr. '834 in view of Okerlund '827. In that claim 1 is novel and unobvious over the cited references for the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that these claims, which depend from claim 1, are novel and unobvious for the same reasons. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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